

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An aqueous dispersion containing suspended materials and a starch composition which functions as a clarifying aid in the aqueous dispersion, the starch composition made by cooking a starch for a time effective to gelatinize the starch, and combining the cooked starch with a polymer, the polymer containing anionic groups or potential anionic groups, the starch and the polymer being combined before adding the starch composition to the aqueous dispersion.

2. (Currently Amended) The aqueous dispersion ~~starch composition~~ of claim 1 in which the anionic groups or potential anionic groups are acidic groups or salts of acidic groups or a combination of acidic groups and salts of acidic groups.

3. (Currently Amended) The aqueous dispersion ~~starch composition~~ of claim 2 in which the acidic groups are one or more of the group consisting of carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid, salts of carboxylic acid, salts of sulfonic acid, and salts of phosphoric acid.

4. (Currently Amended) The aqueous dispersion ~~starch composition~~ of claim 1 in which the polymer is one or more of the group consisting of natural polymers, modified natural polymers, synthetic polymers, homopolymers of polyacrylates, homopolymers of polysulfonates, homopolymers of polyphosphates, copolymers of polyacrylates, copolymers of polysulfonates, and copolymers of polyphosphates.

5. (Currently Amended) The aqueous dispersion ~~starch composition~~ of claim 1 in which the polymer is one or more of the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, polystyrenesulfonic acid, carboxymethylcellulose, guar and xanthan gums, anionic and amphoteric starch, and copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The aqueous dispersion starch composition~~ of claim 1 in which the starch composition contains an aluminum compound prior to the cooking of the starch.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The aqueous dispersion A furnish including the starch composition~~ of claim 1 which comprises a furnish, the suspended materials including cellulosic fibers.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A furnish including the starch composition of claim 1 and~~ The aqueous dispersion of claim 7 additionally comprising an inorganic colloid.

9. (Currently Amended) The aqueous dispersion of claim 7 additionally comprising ~~A furnish including the starch composition of claim 1 and~~ an aluminum compound.

Claims 10 - 67 (Canceled)